1	2	3	4	5
17.	Lakshadwecp	0	0	0
18.	Madhya Pradesh	116	294	139
19.	Maharashtra	64	348	2728
20.	Manipur	61	364	307
21.	Meghalaya	0	0	0
22.	Mizoram	7	3	5
23.	Nagaland	19	51	131
24.	Orissa	0	52	28
25.	Pondicherry	0	0	0
26.	Punjab	52	31	4
27.	Rajasthan	27	106	136
28.	Sikkim	0	0	2
29.	Tamil Nadu	2730	4206	6484
30.	Tripura	0	0	0
31.	Uttar Pradesh	41	93	202
32.	West Bengal	0	0	668
33.	A, bad Munci. Corp.	0	0	189
	TOTAL:	3325 '	6747	14614

Amendment in MTP Act

2982. SHRI C. RAMACHANDRAIAH: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Medical Termination of Pregnancy (MTP) Act is being amended to avoid delay in MTP in rural areas;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) by when the amendments are likely to be introduced?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA): (a) to (c) Government is taking steps to introduce the Medical Termination of

Pregnancy Act (Amendment) Bill, 2002 in the present session of the Parliament. The amendment seeks to (a) delegate powers to a committee headed by the Chief Medical Officers/District Health Officer at district level in order to avoid delay for approval of private clinics, (b) Prescribe punishment of regorous imprisonment of not less than two years which may extend to seven years for clinics which arc not approved for conducting MTPs and also for persons who do not possess the qualifications, training and experience for conducting Medical Termination of Pregnancy as prescribed under the MTP Rules and (c) substitute the expression lunatic with mentally ill person to bring if in tune with the Mental Health Act, 1987.

The amendments are intended to make safe abortion services easily accessible to the public and to discourage illegal abortions.

Leprosy cases in Bihar

2983. SHRI NARENDRA MOHAN: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that according to a joint survey conducted by Bihar Government and WHO, Bihar has the largest number of leprosy cases in India (16.25 per 10,000);

(b) if so, the reasons therefor and how it compares with other States like U.P., Orissa, M.P., etc.;

. (c) whether any steps are being taken in this regard; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA): (a) No such survey has been undertaken in Bihar. However, it is a fact that Bihar has highest number of leprosy cases in India. At the end of February, 2002, the number of leprosy cases in the State was 1,05,822 (Prevalence rate 12.77 per 10,000 population) amounting to 21.67 percent of the total cases under treatment in the country.

(b) Under the World Bank assisted National Leprosy Eradication